

5. (Amended) A device for facilitating the preparation of cytology slides, the device comprising:

a first cover having an inside surface;

a second cover having an inside surface, the second cover hingeably attached to the first cover so as to be foldable into a book form capable of an open and closed position;

an absorbent material mounted on the inside surface of the first cover;

a filter overlaying the absorbent material; and

a cytology slide mounted to the inside surface of the second cover, the slide being positioned on the inside surface of the second cover to contact with the filter when the book form is in the closed position.

6. (Amended) The device of claim 5, wherein the hingeable attachment is formed by a single, continuous hinge.

7. (Amended) The device of claim 5, wherein the hingeable attachment is formed by a plurality of hinges.

8. (Amended) A method of preparing cytology slides, the method comprising:
providing a slide preparation device comprising a first cover having an inside surface, a second cover having an inside surface, said first and second covers hingedly secured to each other so as to be foldable into a book form, an absorbent material mounted to the inside surface of the first cover, wherein the filter overlays the absorbent material and a slide attached to the inside surface of the second cover;

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applying an aliquot of a cytology sample to the filter; and
closing the book form so that the filter containing the aliquot contacts the slide.

1st 11. (Amended) A device for facilitating the preparation of a plurality of cytology slides, the device comprising:

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a cover having an inside surface;
a base having an inside surface;
an interposed hinge, said cover and base hingeably secured to the hinge so as to be foldable into a book form capable of an open and closed position;
a plurality of absorbent material mounted on the inside surface of the cover;
a filter, the filter overlaying the absorbent material; and
a plurality of cytology slides, each cytology slide corresponding to one of the absorbent material mounted on the cover, wherein the cytology slides are mounted to the inside surface of the base, each slide being positioned on the inside surface of the base to contact the corresponding absorbent material and the filter when the book form is in the closed position.

Please enter the following new claims 20-23:

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1st 20. (New) The device of claim 5 wherein the cytology slide is removeably mounted to the inside surface of the second cover.

2nd 21. (New) The device of claim 5 wherein the hinged attachment is formed by a spine interposed between the first and second covers.

22 (New) The device of claim 5, wherein:

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a plurality of absorbent material is mounted to the inside surface of the first cover; and
the second cover forms a base for holding a plurality of cytology slides, each cytology slide corresponding to one of the absorbent material mounted on the first cover, wherein the cytology slides are mounted to an inside surface of the base, each slide being positioned on the inside surface of the base to contact the corresponding absorbent material and the filter when the book form is in the closed position.

23 (New) The method of claim *8* further comprising applying pressure to the first and second covers in the closed position. --

REMARKS

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of the instant application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.